CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Yugoslavia			REPORT		
SUBJECT	Labor Situation			DATE DISTR.	23 Nov. 19	1954
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1. Only about 10% of the Yugoslav labor supply can be classified as skilled, and the rest can be considered as absolutely unsatisfactory. The unskilled labor supply is subject to seasonal fluctuation when agricultural work pays better than factory work. There is constant competition between industry and agriculture for labor, and the available labor supply in certain areas goes through alternate periods of scarcity and over-abundance.

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- 2. A new trained labor supply is only now coming into being, and it will take at least 20 years to meet the personnel needs caused by the current bombastic industrial planning. The prewar skilled labor force does not wish to subject itself to the present factory mismanagement and to mistreatment by incompetent Communist supervisors. Therefore, skilled workers are leaving the factories and establishing themselves as artisans and craftsmen. In the electrotechnical field, almost 90% of the specialized personnel have left their jobs, with disastrous consequences to industry. Slovenia is the least hard-hit by this tendency since the newer industrial and hydroelectric plants need comparatively less skilled labor.
- 3. Unemployment among unskilled laborers is not a serious problem, but insofar as it exists, it has been artificially created by the regime. The peasants who were lured to easier jobs in new industrial projects that were later abandoned were unwilling, in large measure, to return to their native areas, and preferred to remain in the cities, waiting for jobs to materialize. The same is true of those former peasants who worked for enterprises which were transferred to other, less desirable, areas.
- 4. In the agricultural sector there are now large areas of untilled but fertile land whose peasant workers were dispossessed or who went into industry.

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